



JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

January 16, 2014

Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building

The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety met on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 1:00 PM. The meeting was held in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. Members present were: Representatives Jamie Boles, Pat Hurley, Justin Burr, Leo Daughtry, John Faircloth, Charles Graham, George Graham, Allen McNeill, Annie Mobley, Sarah Stevens, Rena Turner, Josh Dobson, Jonathan Jordan, Michael Speciale and Senators Austin Allran, Harry Brown, Angela Bryant, Warren Daniel, Buck Newton, Shirley Randleman, Dan Soucek and Mike Woodard. Also attending were staff members Kristine Leggett, John Poteat, William Childs, Lisa Fox, Hal Pell, Susan Sitze, Brenda Carter, Emily Johnson, Sean Dail, Mary Jennings, Brent Woodcox and Clerks, Kerry Guice, Debbie Holder and Joseph Kyzer.

Representative Jamie Boles presided and called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chairman Boles then called upon the members for the approval of the minutes from the prior meeting. Senator Brown moved that the minutes be approved as written, Chairman Boles called for a vote and the motion carried.

Chairman Boles recognized William Childs from the NCGA Fiscal Staff to follow up with information requested at the December 12th meeting. Mr. Childs noted that there is a report available on the web per a previous request from Representative McNeill regarding recoupment with IDS and has included numbers which show recoupment from the counties for fiscal years 2012-13 and for the last 5 fiscal years as well. (See attachment 1 for a more complete detail of the report)

After Mr. Childs' report, Chairman Boles paused to recognize the Sergeant at Arms, Bill Bass, Barry Moore, Canton Lewis and Billy Fritscher.

Chairman Boles recognized Representative Burr who asked for follow up regarding the motor fleet discussion which was held at an earlier meeting and inquired as to where the issue stands today and what the committee could expect regarding an update. Chairman Boles noted that he had a conversation with DPS the prior evening and received assurance from them that they are working with the Department of Administration and that there seems to be a compromise worked out and things are moving. At this point, he anticipates a final report on the motor fleet at the February meeting.



Chairman Boles recognized John Poteat to address the committee. Mr. Poteat simply noted that the committee members toured the central warehouse and pharmacy on January 15th and, after having received turnips in December, received calendars this month. Indicating this was an incentive to attend the tours being arranged for committee members, he encouraged all members to attend next month's tour which would be announced in the upcoming weeks. Chairman Boles then asked Representative Faircloth to tell the committee what the tour was all about.

Representative Faircloth: It was quite an interesting tour. If you weren't able to make it and another opportunity comes, I would encourage you to attend. We learned quite a bit about how things are produced by correction enterprises and how they are delivered around the state to various places. We also went through the pharmacy. I had been to a meeting last week among some business leaders and we were talking about how the jobs have changed, for instance, in manufacturing, one of the leaders said he now had 4 employees and about 35 – 40 robot machines to do what about 200 employees had done before which is a tremendous loss in the number people with jobs. But it is the future, it's the way things are moving. We saw a sample of that yesterday in the pharmacy. They had to cut back on some positions but they bought 3 robotic machines to fill the prescriptions and they were doing a tremendous jobs, very accurately, and really again, the way of the future. We did learn quite a lot yesterday and it was a good trip. Chairman Boles followed by saying that was why he didn't use the self-check lines at the grocery stores because doing so eliminates a position at that store so he would rather stand in line with a clerk.

Representative Faircloth: I tried to follow that philosophy but I found out that even when they tell me to use the machine, I still have to go get them and tell me how to use the machine.

Chairman Boles recognized John Poteat, NCGA Fiscal Research Staff to present a program on Inmate Health Services who gave a power point presentation on Inmate Health Services. (See Attachment 2 for a more complete description of said presentation).

Representative Mobley: Do we hold questions or may I ask a question at this time? OK. You said this last quarter, medicals for inmates have declined although the number has increased?

Poteat: If you go back to October of 2011, the second, there were 417 admissions that quarter and a comparable quarter two years later, the admissions had declined to 335 admissions. So the admissions have declined 20% but the overall prison populations have risen .5% so I'm trying to give you some context.

Representative Mobley: Can you share with us the reason the inmates are healthier than what they have been in the past? I know it seems like medicines and medications have increased for a lot of folks so do you have any...

Poteat: I often tell that the wellness programs they have for the inmates in the past, is impacting this population. I think a lot of what you will hear later on has to do with a lot of people (inmates) being served in the Central Prison and the NCCIW Hospital where, as a community hospital, they can bring inmates from other facilities to Central and NCCIW hospitals to actually have them treated there and we will talk about some of the specialty clinics and things that are operating there. I think that will have a large impact on it.



Representative George Graham: Relative to local government, let's say a Sheriff's Office, and the contractual arrangements you have with the hospital. Does that include Sheriffs?

Poteat: Last year, in the course of the presentation in the JPS subcommittee, we talked about the provision in the state budget that has hospital payments and other provider payments capped at 70% of the bill charges or 2 times the Medicaid rate. Some members were real interested in that applying to counties so there was a bill passed and I think the County Commissioners have worked with the department in terms of setting up some technical assistance to actually have a county jail have those same sort of arrangements. I don't know where that process is. The last time I spoke with the County Commissioners Association, they were working with the department and the problem they were having was that you have 100 different counties and their IT systems whereas the state has obviously, just one system. It is a lot more seamless for the state to communicate with outside providers. I think, from my understanding, from the County Commissioners Association, they were working on those barriers, so that is an ongoing process.

Representative George Graham: When that inmate is a state prisoner being held in a local jail

Poteat: Oh, I'm sorry sir. That is a different matter. If an inmate is in the jail, if there is a jail backlog, then the state would be responsible for that. Fortunately, we haven't had a jail backlog in two and a half years. In the opposite situation, if there is a safe keeper, a county inmate that is being housed at the state, then the county would have to pay the extraordinary costs associated with that inmate because they are a county inmate, not a state inmate.

Mr. Poteat continued with his presentation.

Chairman Boles recognized Senator Woodard to speak.

Senator Woodard: Before we get too far, five hospitals account for 55% of the claims. Could you tell us what those five are?

Poteat: Yes sir, I can.

Senator Woodard: I think I could take a good stab at it but I'd like to know for sure.

Poteat: I need to grab that list for you in a moment but it's gonna be UNC, Catawba Valley, I believe. Let me just stop there and I'll get the list for you.

Chairman Boles recognized Senator Bryant to speak.

Senator Bryant: On page 10, the quarterly hospital, these figures are all of the reductions for each year? Ours are in black and white and the fact that it is in red up there mean it is a reduction?

Poteat: Yes ma'am it is.

Mr. Poteat again continued with his presentation.

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Poteat's presentation, Chairman Boles opened the floor to members for questions. Representative George Graham was recognized to speak.



Representative George Graham: If inmates have personal insurance and a community hospital is used, do we bill the insurance or do we absorb the cost?

Poteat: No sir. Part of the inmate being in the custody of the State, they are the state's responsibility.

Representative Hurley: You said there are 80 medical and 70 mental health beds at the women's correctional hospital. So that would be 150 people. There has been 4,223 procedures. Are any of them going to the Central Prison to get anything done or are they all using these specialty clinics or...

Poteat: Just to clarify, when I mentioned these 4200 procedures, these just aren't inmates who are necessarily going into a hospital bed. They could be going and seeing an orthopedic specialist who could be coming to the facility to treat the person. They are not all necessarily occupying medical beds. They could just be getting some day of work.

Representative Hurley: How many at the women's...

Chairman Boles: How many inmates?

Representative Hurley: Yes. Is this the women?

Poteat: These 4,200 procedures are not only women who are housed at NCCIW but could be coming from other units around the state where they house women.

Chairman Boles: Just to clarify myself on the specialty. We're talking about 14 specialties on the doctors, like the ortho, a urologist, a gynecologist, those types of specialties

Poteat: Yes sir.

Chairman Boles: We're not talking about a clinic set up in there for that particular specialty item medically.

Poteat: Maybe Ms. Catlett can expound on this but they have actually set up...

Chairman Boles: I've got some other...so...I will just wait.

Representative Jordan: Those two sections need to be parallel – except your last line on the Women's Hospital says June – November. Is that correct?

Poteat: Yes sir. The Central Prison Hospital opened first and the Women's Prison was coming on line so the delay is because the clinics weren't staffed at NCCIW Hospital until June.

Representative Charles Graham: Do the specialty clinics include dental, vision, any of those?

Poteat: There is a dental service that are offered in prison. That is smaller part of the overall general health budget. Inmates have always gotten dental treatment. In terms of their being specialty clinics at Central Prison for dental treatment – yes. And I see Terri nod, so yes.

Representative Charles Graham: They are getting for visual – glasses?

Poteat: Yes and you'll be glad to know the glasses are actually manufactured down at Nash Correctional as part of our Correction Enterprise plant.

Representative Dobson: The Medicaid eligibility that you talked about earlier as a cost containment we started in 2010 – what is the rationale that we just started doing that in 2010?



Poteat: There had been lots of – the Federal Medicaid system is divided up into regions around the country and the department had petitioned the Atlanta region, which serves North Carolina, for years because they had heard that other states had Medicaid eligible inmates. The ruling seemed to be that this wasn't permissible. I think the department either kept being persistent or there was a change in the interpretation of the rules within the federal system and they were able to get a favorable ruling and then the department was directed to work with DMA to set up this memorandum of understanding about how inmates are going to be screened, how they are going to be paid. An inmate has to be in a community setting for more than 24 hours, Medicaid eligible. So it's not every time somebody leaves the facility and they are Medicaid eligible, Medicaid pays for it. It just varies with specific criteria. It just took longer than a lot of people thought to get that system set up.

Representative Dobson: Basically what you are saying is it had been pursued for years prior to that, we had just been waiting on approval or different interpretation to go forward with it. Is that fair to say.

Poteat: I think that is fair to say.

Representative Dobson: The 70% of bill charges – has there been much push back or complaints from the private health care providers on that or is that something they are comfortable with? How is that relationship working?

Poteat: Maybe we can hold that question for when Ms. Catlett comes up. The people who would be hearing most complaints would be you all and I have not had feedback from members about that relationship and maybe Ms. Catlett can address that.

There being no further questions of Mr. Poteat, Chairman Boles recognized Ms. Terri Catlett, Deputy Director for Health Services, Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Services, North Carolina Department of Public Safety. He also reminded members that they were free to visit Mr. Poteat in fiscal research at any time to have him answer any questions they might have. He also reminded members to please hold their questions until the end of Ms. Catlett's presentation. Ms. Catlett came forward to give a power point presentation (See Attachment 2 for a more complete description of said presentation).

Upon conclusion of Ms. Catlett's presentation, Chairman Boles opened the floor for questions from members and recognized Senator Bryant to speak.

Senator Bryant: What does the activation challenge mean, if you could just briefly remind me?

Catlett: Some of the challenge during activation is actually just getting the facility staffed. Some of the recruitment efforts, some of the retention efforts in opening a new facility. Certainly in the Raleigh area, there are lots of other employment in health care so finding individuals that were willing to come work in a correctional health care environment was challenging.

Senator Bryant: I remember debating in a J committee somewhere some new provisions or updated provisions on compassionate release. If the staff could remind us what was accomplished on that or where we are on that. If inmates become so ill as to not really be a



threat but to, if there was some way to get paroled and if there was some procedure for that. I don't really know how that is working – could we get an update on that, if not now, later?

Chairman Boles: Yes give us a couple of minutes – they are in conference and I'll get back to you.

Representative McNeill: Going back to this graying population – is this just simply because people with long term sentences are the make-up of these getting gray or is the age of people getting incarcerated growing?

Catlett: It is actually a combination of both. We have inmates who have longer sentences and we actually have older inmates who are being incarcerated. We have two inmates who are 87 years old and we, in our processing centers, they are processing inmates who are in their late 60's and early 70's. So it is actually a combination of both factors. And again, this is not just in North Carolina, this is a national issue.

Representative Charles Graham: The percentage of mental health patients seems to be on the rise. For the mental health case management, medication management, individual group therapy, are those Medicaid billable hours for services?

Catlett: No those are not. This is all in-patient and the Medicaid billable is only community based admissions. All of our mental health in-patients are managed internally.

Senator Allran: You mentioned routine MRI and I don't understand that – what is a "routine" MRI?

Catlett: I may have misspoke. If there was a clinical indication for an MRI, the patient would be sent to Central Prison instead of urgently. Again, if someone needs something done urgently, we would send them to the local community hospital. But, if an orthopedist has determined that there was a clinical indication for an MRI and, I failed to mention this does go through a utilization process before it is approved. We currently use the same utilization review software program that Blue Cross Blue Shield and all community hospitals use. So if it has been determined that an individual meets the clinical criteria for an MRI, we bring them to Central Prison for that particular procedure.

Senator Allran: So to get an overall view of this, is it true that the costs are going up as the population is going down and the hospital admissions are going down?

Catlett: Community Hospital admissions or any ...

Senator Allran: No. I was just looking at the chart that says hospitalizations down, prison population down, costs up. Is that true?

Catlett: Actually our prison, our out-patient external admissions are going down, that is correct. The prison population, as John mentioned, has gone up. And our external spend, with the help of you all has gone down.

Senator Allran: Wait wait. The prison population is going up? I thought the prison population was going down.

Chairman Boles: Can we hold on a minute? Mr. Poteat

Poteat: I think the question was related to the chart that I showed that, over the past three years, the hospital admission has gone down and the prison population over those three years has gone



up slightly, .5%. So it is still around 37, less than 38,000 inmates but I was comparing that to the hospital admissions are going down and the population over the last three years is slightly up.

Senator Allran: Well, the reason we shut down our, certain institutions, was because the population was going down. That's all I heard last session, was prison population is down, underutilization, shut down prison facilities.

Chairman Boles: And I'm not going – but I think with our prison expansion, the fact is some of the larger sights.

Poteat: The prisons that have closed over the past 4 years have been merely been closed because the population overall is coming down and because you all, when you authorized these new thousand bed prisons to be constructed, the six, they were designed to have add on capacity to make them more efficient. So the units that have been closing were older, smaller, less efficient units. That is why they have closed so, you have larger facilities.

Senator Allran: I'm really just trying to get a, instead of looking at the trees, at the forest, I'm trying to get a picture of the whole thing not just the can't see the forest for the trees. So is the population in this state, prison population going down, going up slightly, and is the cost of hospitalization for these folks and treatments going up, staying the same or going down?

Chairman Boles: I'm gonna have Kristine Leggett (Fiscal Research Staff) address that.

Leggett: I think based on these questions and the confusion being generated, it might be a good idea to have the sentencing commission come in and do a presentation for ya'll on what is going on with the prison population. We could schedule that for February if that would be OK with the committee.

Senator Allran: OK. That would be great. I appreciate the enthusiasm of the speaker too. The only thing that kinda gets me is there are a lot of people in this state who don't have health insurance and don't have health care and they haven't committed crimes and they are not in prison for twenty or thirty year or forty year sentences or life because they killed somebody or several people. So, I hope that the prison population isn't going down or staying the same with the costs going up. Because we sure do have a lot of people who don't have health care that are good people.

Chairman Boles: I totally agree and I think; Senator Goolsby and I were talking, if you are an elderly adult and you need health care, it would be so easy to go to jail to get it.

Senator Allran: This dovetails back to my original question about, did that work 'routine' MRI really, I understand better now, but that kinda jumped out at me. A lot of us can't afford MRI's so, if you are a murderer, you apparently get one.

Chairman Boles: And your dental, and your vision.

Representative George Graham: If you are receiving social security, is that suspended if you are incarcerated?

Catlett: Yes.

Representative Hurley: I was just noticing all of the different clinics that we have and they all seem specialized. Do you have any that are general practitioners or do some of the same providers provide for these different clinics?



Catlett: We have primary care physicians on site that provide routine sick call type, general medicine clinics. So they are primary care providers and we have them, DPS staff provides those particular services. It is not necessarily a clinic per say, it is actually done at the bedside or during sick call. So, primary care is done separately than the specialty clinics.

Representative Hurley: But do we have some...do we have someone who comes in for diabetes alone or cardiovascular alone or do you set a separate day for them to come for the patients with this?

Catlett: Yes. We kinda have a monthly calendar and we, for example, we base it on the availability of our specialists. So, maybe the first Friday of every month is when the ENT specialist would come in and provide care, and the physicians take a look at our calendar and take a look at their calendar and they determine what meets their needs and we fill them in accordingly. For example our general surgeon comes in every Tuesday afternoon and then does his actual procedures in the operating room on Thursday. It is a monthly calendar. We keep everything the same for continuity and that way we know how to schedule accordingly.

Representative Stevens: I was just going to try and answer Senator Allran's question a little bit. I went on line and found that in 2010 we had 40,379 prisoners and in 2011, we had 39,678 prisoners and today, we have 37,328 so it seems to be going somewhat on a downward trend based on DPS's website.

Senator Bryant: Would any of these additional charges be covered by Medicaid that aren't covered now and what would they be? Especially in the mental health arena – the general health and/or mental health/substance abuse arena.

Catlett: I'm certainly aware of the answer to that question. I do know that, as we were discussing mental health, unless the mental health offender has a medical problem, we typically do not send them out to the local community hospital. We manage all of our mental health patients internally so as far as if they would be available for the expansion of Medicaid, I don't know the answer to that.

Senator Bryant: Could see if staff has any information on that?

Chairman Boles: Sure

Kristine Leggett: I think that, for the most part, because the Medicaid eligible inmates are only those that are actually out of the prison for more than 24 hours that an expansion of Medicaid would not have an impact or would not produce additional savings but I don't know enough about Medicaid expansions to answer that definitively so we will work with the HHS team and get you an answer to that.

Chairman Boles recognized Susan Sitze (NCGA staff) to follow up on Senator Bryant's inquiry.

Sitze: Regarding medical release, the General Assembly did create statutes in 2008 that authorize medical release to certain inmates that are permanently and totally disabled, terminally ill or geriatric under certain conditions and there is a process for that. Also, in 2013, just last year in the budget, ya'll put in a reporting requirement to now require them report to this committee as well as JPS appropriations on how many people are considered for that each year. That report is due by April 1st so ya'll should be getting some information on that.



Senator Bryant: Mr. Chair, I think it would be great to look at that and determine if, given, what the stats now show that we are facing should there be any changes or improvements or updates.

Sitze: I do know that it has not been large numbers in the past couple of years. Somewhere like between 10 and 20 over the past two years at least that have actually been released under that provision.

Representative Charles Graham: If a veteran commits a crime and he is in prison, does he lose his benefits?

Catlett: I'm not aware of that – I'm not aware of whether they receive their benefits or not but we are still constitutionally mandated to provide them their medical care.

Representative Charles Graham: Could we get an answer to that?

Chairman Boles: Sure. Staff is going to work on it. Hopefully by the end of the meeting I'll have a notation here.

Representative Turner: Could you say that reduced hospital visits have been a result of available clinics or is there any correlation there?

Catlett: I would say absolutely. With the availability of all of the clinics and John's statistics went through November; we actually had through over ten thousand encounters at Central Prison through clinics so absolutely there has been a decrease in external visits to the community based on our internal clinics. So just at Central Prison alone we had over ten thousand physician specialty encounters last year. As I mentioned, at Blue Ridge we had over one thousand, and at NCCIW I think the statistics were close to five thousand specialty encounters. So absolutely it has an impact on a decrease in the amount of inmates seeking care in the local community facility.

Representative Turner: Would that also effect the expense? Is it more expensive to hospitalized than to attend the clinics within the facility.

Catlett: Yes ma'am.

Chairman Boles: Ms. Catlett, clarification – Blue Ridge?

Catlett: Yes. Blue Ridge Health Care System – that is University Health Care System in the western part of the state out in Valdese – out in Morganton is where the actual hospital is.

Chairman Boles: And they cover all western to the Tennessee line?

Catlett: That's correct.

Representative Speciale: Do you get any reimbursements from anything with regard to the patients? For example, I'm retired military and if I go to the hospital I have TriCare. If you have veterans there or anyone else that has insurance or anything else, if they end up in the hospital there for a while do you get any kind of reimbursements from them?

Catlett: No sir we do not.

Chairman Boles: Representative Speciale, I think that staff is working on Representative Graham's question about VA benefits and I think that was with the health insurance as well and I think we are waiting on an answer. OK, I think Mr. Poteat is ready to answer.



Poteat: I am ready to answer one of the questions. Just to follow up with Representative Speciale – there is no reimbursement from private insurance companies or even TriCare because inmates are wards of the state while they are in custody. However there is a co-pay program that an inmate does need to see a doctor for instance, they are charged a \$5.00 co-pay and if it turns out that it is a legitimate sick call, then they are not charged that so it is a way to sort of contain costs. It is only \$5.00 obviously but most people do not have the means to pay health companies which you and I are paying.

Representative Speciale: I'm trying to understand the relationship between being a ward of the state and going into the hospital and getting reimbursed. Why that would prevent it.

Chairman Boles: You're talking about going into the hospital and this is while you're ...

Representative Speciale: I'm talking about not getting reimbursed because you are wards of the state. I don't understand the relationship. I don't understand why they wouldn't get, just because they are wards of the state. Am I missing something?

Chairman Boles: They are going to work on that.

Representative Stevens: I am going to try to ask the question more directly that Representative Speciale. Why couldn't, even though we are required to provide health care, why can't we make ourselves secondary. If I have one insurance policy, my husband has another, there's some arrangement between the insurance companies as to who is primary and secondary. If an inmate comes in and has alternative coverage, just like Medicaid or anything else, couldn't we become secondary? What would prohibit us?

Chairman Boles: Mr. Hal Pell (NCGA Research Staff) is going to give us an opinion here.

Pell: The benefits, it depends on what type of benefits, disability compensation payments are reduced for veterans convicted of a felony in a prison for more than sixty days. If you are rated 20% or more, you are limited to 10% disability rate. If it's 10%, it's reduced by one half. That's just one example of disability. Pension. Veterans in receipt of VA pension will have payments effective the 61st day after imprisonment in a federal, state or local penal institution.

Apportionment to spouse or children, all or part of compensation not paid to an incarcerated veteran may be apportioned to the veteran's spouse, child or children and dependent parents on the basis of need so there is a need determination. Educational benefits, beneficiaries incarcerated for other than a felony can receive full monthly benefits. If otherwise entitled, if they are in a halfway house or participating in work release, they can receive full monthly educational benefits. So it just depends on the type of crime and whether the benefits may be apportioned to family members.

Chairman Boles: Is there a website that they could...

Pell: Yes sir. There is a complete website for veterans that are incarcerated and it provides information on what benefits are lost and also provides information to incarcerated veterans on what to do once they are released from incarceration.

Chairman Boles: Could you share that site with us?

Pell: www.benefits.va.gov and then <http://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-incarcerated.asp>. If you just put veterans incarcerated it's the official benefits.va.gov site. We can provide more, if we want to have it at the next meeting, a handout with that information.



Representative Stevens: Chairman Boles, I don't think that went at all to my question and maybe staff doesn't have an answer but could we see about finding one? If you have that benefit when you come in, why couldn't it be used, billed or charged by our facility, particularly if we are set up almost like the Medicaid billing system or the Blue Cross billing system?

Chairman Boles: Noted

Senator Goolsby: I just want to second that. That sounds to me like something we absolutely need an answer to and we need to correct the law if that is not the law at this point. I wonder if the speaker can address that specific question.

Catlett: I think it goes back to the 8th amendment where it states that we are constitutionally mandated to provide necessary care to our offenders. I think that is pretty clear that that is our requirement.

Senator Goolsby: I would agree with that requirement. It doesn't mean we have to pay for it if there is another form of payment that is available through benefits earned as a veteran or otherwise. So, I would like to direct the staff to go ahead and research that and let's prepare appropriate legislation if that is the case and see what we can do about making that happen.

Chairman Boles: Thank you. I was told by staff that they are going to get up with the insurance benefits program and will give us an answer in the February meeting.

Representative Charles Graham: As a follow-up to the last statement I think as a body we need to look at legislation that can help with this situation. I don't know how many veterans we're talking about but I'm sure there's right many. I do want to comment – I know the Governor is really pursuing Veteran's Court and it is something I'm interested in and it's something I'm interested in for Veteran's in general. To give these individuals an opportunity, to hopefully prevent incarceration related to their service connected disability. Again, I'd like to emphasize that we, as a body, need to look at this and try to come up with legislation to try to correct it. I think that's a wrong.

There being no further questions, Chairman Boles thanked Ms. Catlett for her presentation to the committee and recognized John Poteat for follow-up to a prior question from the committee.

Poteat: The question was "What are the five hospitals that accounted for 55% of the inmates?" It was, in order, UNC, Catawba Valley, Rex Healthcare, Pitt County Memorial and Moore Regional. Those five facilities account for 55% of the inmates.

Chairman Boles called a 5 minute recess.

Chairman Boles called the meeting back to order at 2:35 p.m. and recognized Hal Pell to follow-up on some comments presented earlier in the meeting.

Pell: Current law does not – a veteran does not forfeit their eligibility for health care however, VA regulations, current federal regulations restrict the VA from providing hospital and outpatient care to an incarcerated veteran who is an inmate of another government agency when that agency has a duty to give the care or services. So basically, what we heard today, there is a



duty for the state to provide these services, therefore, under federal regulations, they would not receive their health benefits.

Representative Speciale: OK, that is taken care of. But even under other circumstances, let's say I go to prison, my wife works, she's got insurance, I'm covered under her insurance. Why couldn't we recoup under that? If for whatever reason you have to send me out to a local facility, why couldn't we recoup for that? Any scenario where we could recoup, I think we should be able to. Obviously we have to find out what situations would be able to do that under.

Chairman Boles: We will let staff – Kristine Leggett please.

Leggett: Yes sir. We are going to talk to other staff who knows stuff about insurance which is not us, and get back to you in February.

Chairman Boles: Noted

Chairman Boles recognized Anne Precythe, Director of Community Corrections, Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Services, NC Department of Public Safety to come forward and give an update on the status of new probation and parole positions (See Attachment 4 for a copy of her power point sheet presentation)

Upon the conclusion of Mrs. Precythe's presentation, Chairman Boles opened the floor to the members for questions and discussion.

Representative McNeill: Of these positions that you had available, do you know about how many applicants you had available for them? And has it been difficult getting applicants, have you had to go out and search for them, advertise for them or has there just been a lot of interest?

Precythe: There has been an extraordinary amount of interest for positions. We have two different types of qualifications that people can apply for. They can apply for a PPO position which is a fully funded position for somebody who meets all of the requirements – the training and education requirements. We also have an probation/parole associate position for people that don't have prior experience that allows them to come in and then work for a year and become a fully funded PPO position. We have been screening, we have people screening a full week at a time. That is all they do is screen applicants so that we can have good solid rosters of experience and people we believe will be good probation/parole officers.

Representative Faircloth: Can you give us a sketch of what training is involved and how long it takes for a person coming in and training before they are able to function?

Precythe: Yes sir. When someone is hired, the day they walk in on the job we begin what we call an 'onboarding' process. This means they are meeting with someone, an experienced person, for the full period, it's a two year period that we have with that employee. When they start with us, on an average, somewhere between 45 – 60 days, and we get them in our basic training. Basic training is a five week training program. When they leave basic training, they continue with mentors if you will, but different experts in that particular county and/or district and they continue to learn the functions of the job. We have what we have created called field specialists. This person is dedicated to follow our new employees so that they really get a nice



even integration into the position and they are not just thrown into an entire caseload, carrying a weapon, doing field contacts. They are definitely coached along the way.

Representative Dobson: With regard to NEOGov, and I know probation/parole is a little different than other positions within the department, can you talk a little about that connection because I am getting a lot of feedback from back home on NEOGov. So can you just briefly touch on that with regard to probation/parole positions? Maybe I can clarify – as far as increased amount of applications based on NEOGov and previously the way we did it. More out of state applications because of NEOGov.

Precythe: I do not have those types of statistics at all. We are seeing – I can really not answer that question at all because I don't know exactly how many applications we were getting before NEOGov but we are working through that process. I think there are several pros to having NEOGov. The key is how applicants are filling out the application and the screening process. I really don't feel comfortable answering that at this point.

Chairman Boles: If the staff would - Representative Dobson, staff will follow up with you.

Representative Daughtry: Last time you were here, we were talking about an issue about cars for probation officers. The new probation officers, how are they going to get around?

Precythe: My understanding is that we are working on that particular issue with the Department of Administration. As you know, each probation/parole officer position has a safety package and within that safety package a car is included in that particular package. We are in the process of working with the Department of Administration to make sure we have cars for all of our employees.

Representative Daughtry: Does that include the existing probation officers that you presently have.

Precythe: My understanding is yes sir.

Chairman Boles: Representative Daughtry – earlier Representative Burr had mentioned about the car issue and as of last night, myself along with the Department of Public Safety in conjunction with the Department of Administration, that they were working on this issue and that a comprise, an agreement will be worked out either today or tomorrow. In February we will have a report from DOA and hopefully the issues as far as replacing or adding to the fleet issue is resolved because, we are adding new agents and they need to have a vehicle. I guess on the application, it's not on there, will you provide your own car? You may get hired quicker if you do (laugh). That issue is being worked out and we will have a full report in the February meeting.

Senator Bryant: I know the fully funded positions require a four year college degree – is that also the case for the associate position?

Precythe: Yes ma'am.

Senator Bryant: So the difference is whether they have any prior experience?

Precythe: Yes ma'am.



Representative McNeill: In your recruitment process and your screening process, are we giving any advantage to veteran's that apply for this, these positions and if not, I think we should probably find a way to do that.

Precythe: Yes sir we should and the first thing we are looking for is that four year degree with the education requirement and then, in some cases we do have veterans that have had other types of experiences while in the military that give them that experience that we are looking for that makes them a qualified person for a probation/parole officer position.

Chairman Boles recognized Hal Pell to comment.

Pell: The current personnel manual is that the state statutes provide that veterans do get a preference for state hiring. It is written into our state statutes and our personnel manual.

Representative McNeill: That is good and I hope we are considering that when hiring these 75 and cause...and I know there was a bill passed this year – the brass to class act – that gave veterans. Experience allowed experience to be a part of that package and maybe something we could look at as far as these jobs go.

Chairman Boles thanked Mrs. Precythe for her presentation and added that he would like to give kudos to Commissioner Guice for the presentations by his department and noted that North Carolina Department of Public Safety was the envy of many states and thanked him for doing a great job in containing costs and efficiencies. He also thanked him for his communications with the committee.

Chairman Boles then recognized Kimberly Williams, Assistant Director and the Governor's Crime Commission who gave a power point presentation on behalf of Executive Director David Huffman who was unable to attend today's meeting (See attachment 5 for a more complete detail of the presentation)

Upon the conclusion of her presentation, Chairman Boles opened the floor to members for questions and discussion.

Representative Charles Graham: You mentioned several counties that have been approved or are being considered for veterans court and my question is, what is the average grant award for those courts?

Williams: Right now we haven't got to the point, with the exception of Harnett County of awarding actual grants in the other counties. They are still in the negotiation stages. We are supporting, at the Governor's Crime Commission, one Veteran's Court Co-coordinator and if I recall, it's somewhere in the area of \$50,000.00 to support the work of a coordinator that works in either the veteran's clinic or the hospital in that area to work with the court system and the community partners to transition these veterans back into the community. So we are supporting the actual coordinator position

Representative Charles Graham: Is there a cap or maximum number of Veteran's Courts you are looking at or is that

Williams: It's not a cap – I wouldn't call it a cap but we are, the executive director is looking at the veteran population and making a consideration of the counties where the Veteran's Courts



will be – whether it has a VA hospital or a VA clinic and also, the past number of incidences of veterans being involved in the criminal justice system.

Chairman Boles: I think it's kind of interesting that Cumberland County was going to be one of the last ones.

Williams: Those were not in any particular order

Senator Goolsby: I guess there is no enabling legislation for these Veteran courts. I don't recall being a committee member ever addressing those. Are those simply a creation of the Governor's Crime Commission, the Executive Branch? I know we haven't dealt with any of that here in the legislature.

Williams: Yes sir.

Senator Goolsby: I would like to meet the Executive Director and the Chairman, are they here?

Williams: They are not here today.

Senator Goolsby: Oh, they didn't come to our meeting

Williams: Inaudible

Senator Goolsby: I understand there is a medical issue - No problem. I would like to make a statement Mr. Chairman. I have served as a JPS chair for the last three years, going on four years now and this is the first time we have heard from the Crime Commission. I asked that they come in and address us. I have been appointed by the President Pro Tempore. I know that Chairman Boles served on the Crime Commission. I just think it is important that as we go further, with the new administration, as the legislative branch of government that we see to it that we co-ordinate our efforts more. I am a former staff person, legal counsel to the Crime Commission many years ago when Lt. Governor Gardner was our Lt. Governor – that was my first job after graduating from law school. I guess I'm concerned about the lack of co-ordination, these Veteran's Courts, I'm all for. I'm a veteran, Marine Corps veteran, proud and I see a lot of our veterans with needs living down in New Hanover County, being a large retirement area next to Camp Lejeune. We need to help our veterans but it would sure be nice if that was coordinated through the General Assembly. I think we could help. Not simply with money but with enabling legislation that could make that a heck of a lot more effective. And I guess my big concern is but for me asking that the Crime Commission come here and present to us today and I appreciate you coming over ma'am, we don't hear from the Crime Commission. I know I'm supposed to be appoint and Jamie also, Chairman Boles, and it is part of our job as liaisons to do that but I would encourage as we move into the future. I will not be here starting next year, but we perhaps require reports from the Crime Commission as to the money, have direct reports over here at least once a year so that we know what they are doing and what they are thinking about and what they are funding. There is a lot of good committed people over there and a heck of a lot of knowledge with law enforcement. If memory serves me correct, we've got a lot of law enforcement across the state, we've got private attorneys, we've got legislators, we have all sorts of people over there. But to think we've got tens of millions of dollars that's being directed with the legislative branch not having any involvement, none, I mean I've had none over the last three years what the Crime Commission's been doing. That's sad and it should change. I'm not blaming at all the Governor, I'm blaming me. I haven't done it and I think that it needs to be done and I think that requiring reports might be some legislation that we want the staff to look at



so that we can get reports and find out what's up and then fostering a much closer working relationship like having the Crime Commission members maybe come and meet with us. Maybe having a meeting set aside during the oversight time period and maybe during the legislative

Chairman Boles: I can remember during the mornings, they never presented to us.

Senator Goolsby: Right, they never did. And, cause I don't think we ever asked them. But I do think it is important that, as we get into the budgeting process, to get the Crime Commission over and work together. You all have heard me complain about the way that forfeitures take place in this state and the way the money is diverted from the schools using Operation Fair Share with the federal authorities so that all the money is directed to various law enforcement agencies both at the state and local levels across the state and we don't necessarily know where that money goes and what happens to it. So again, I do think co-ordination across the board with our own executive branch, with local government, municipalities, counties, with ALE, with SBI, with the various law enforcement agencies that are getting different monies that come in, along with the BJA monies that come in, Bureau of Justice Assistance, as I recall, it comes in to the Crime Commission. I just think it's incumbent upon us as committee members to make sure that we coordinate all of this. Because folks, the Governor doesn't make the law, no matter who the Governor is, whether it's Perdue in the past or Governor McCrory now, we do and we are the ones that also appropriate the money. This is our citizens money that goes to the federal government to be sent back to us and I think we only get about 60 cents on the dollar in North Carolina and I just think it's important for us to be involved and figure out where the money is going and help in any way that we can as the co-equal branch of government to direct that. Just a thought I have and I would encourage committee members who are going to stay here a lot longer than me to please keep that in mind and let's, moving forward, do all that we can to work hand in hand with the executive, with the Crime Commission which I am about to become a member of, and I will do everything I can when I am over there. I would just encourage us Mr. Chairman, to do all we can to feather liaison with the execution branch and see that this money gets directed in ways that we understand, that we approve and programs like the Veteran's Courts, which I am all in favor of, are supported by enabling legislation that can help them work properly and be properly supported.

Chairman Boles: Ms. Williams, could you go back to slide 22. I would like to add that our own Sarah Stevens is on the commission in the blue.

Representative Burr: I certainly understand what Senator Goolsby is saying but it is important to remember that unless we plan on being a full time legislature and micromanaging these individuals, just like Senator Brown and I worked to establish the new rule infrastructure authority and appropriate money for them so that they can then turn around and award money, we can't be involved in micromanaging many of these groups. We certainly can have influence and change their guidance in some respects but I don't know how much the legislature needs to be involved in micromanaging every grant that they award. In terms of the grants that you receive from the federal government, you mentioned that they have reduced. Can you tell me, you said I believe that when you started that you had around \$40 million and today it is around \$19, is that correct?



Williams: Yes

Representative Burr: What federal pot of money are we receiving that has been reduced? Is it – what is the name of the federal grant?

Williams: All of our grants are from the Department of Justice. We administer three different allocations that fall under the Department of Justice; one being from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention which gives us our Juvenile Justice allocation. The other being the Office of Victims of Crime and the Office of Crimes Against Women which allocates our Crime Victims Services allocation; and the other being the Bureau of Justice Assistance which gives us our Criminal Justice Improvement allocation.

Representative Burr: You are talking about a 50% reduction in what we received in the State of North Carolina. Were all of those federal pots of money cut by 50% or did we lose a larger percentage than other states or do we not have, are we not talking to the right folks in Washington to make sure we are receiving our appropriate share of that money versus other states? Do you know where that stands?

Williams: This is not just in North Carolina. This is nationwide. All states have received federal cuts for different reasons. As far as the allocation that has been cut at the Crime Commission, the Juvenile Justice funding has been cut the greatest. Our Crime Victims Servicing funding has probably seen the less cuts throughout the year. They have remained relatively constant. But between Juvenile Justice and our Criminal Justice Improvement grants, those are the two allocations that have seen the greatest reductions over the years. And every year staff revisits our delegation in Washington to, not lobby, but to educate them on how this money is needed in North Carolina. And the money is allocated from a formula. Based on our population, our crime rate, that determines the amount of money that we receive every year and over the years those formulas have been reduced.

Representative Burr: Do you believe nationally everyone has seen about a 50% reduction?

Williams: Well, I would say between 20% and actually 60% reduction nationwide.

Senator Brown: I live in Onslow County and you didn't mention Onslow County in that list and I was a little surprised so I had to speak up. Camp Lejeune being in Onslow County, I would have to say maybe other than Cumberland County I've got more veterans than anybody. I was just curious how the decision was made and just thought I'd bring that to your attention because I do know the need and it is definitely needed in our county.

Williams: I will definitely take your concern back to our Executive Director.

Representative Stevens: My understanding is that Harnett County volunteered and got the people together to do the firsts Veterans Court. Part of what I want to say about the Crime Commission, as now having gone to two meetings, I must be the expert in the room. The Crime Commission tends to look for innovative ideas and programs. They are not intended to be long term fixes so if they try this Veterans Court and it works very well they will probably bring it to us to fund which brings me to the real thing I wanted to say which is a combination of these two. As we watch them experiment with these things we then have to figure who wants to take them over as long term programs. So I wanted to get this committee to take a look at something called SALSA. I've practiced law but I've never heard of these. They are in just limited districts.



They have been granted by the Crime Commission and nothing was mentioned here but I hear there is tremendous financial savings for us as a state. It is something we may want to start looking at. It is a – the state DA's office, with this grant money, will hire a special prosecutor to work hand and hand with the federal government. So they are working for the federal courts as well as the state courts and if they can get the case prepared it's tried in Federal Court where they have longer sentences for really bad criminals. They pay the cost of incarceration but they contribute nothing to the SALSA salary that is helping get this prosecution. We did have this discussion in the Governor's Crime Commission that is not something that the Governor's Crime Commission can continually do because it is not intended to be long term funding. It's intended to be an upstart program where you go find your own system of financing. And this group doesn't have a way to get independent financing. They don't have another source of funds so I would like to request that we, as the Justice and Public Safety Oversight, look at that and see if that is something we want to recommend to try and have the state fund.

Chairman Boles: Noted – I've asked staff to get up with the Crime Commission to make a presentation in March. I was at that particular meeting and it was very enlightening and I understand. I think it would be great to make that same presentation here to this committee and work on future plans.

Senator Bryant: I appreciate Senator Goolsby's emphasis on integrity and fairness and fair competition for the grants. However, I have found it being difficult over the years I've understood that the priorities come out in the fall. I don't know if that is correct in the October time frame or the fall of the year or whenever. I have also been trying to find what the priorities are, etc. and get communication about that and it's not that easy to me to get the information about what the priorities are and what the grant request, the RFP's are, the opportunities for applications are. There may be a network of folks who routinely participate in this project and get the grant and yet in many of our communities there are also other folks that are doing work, some of this innovative work, who might could benefit. So, I would surely appreciate more transparency or forthcomingness in terms of e-mail information to us of when the, an announcement when the priorities are established and what the grant, our offerings and processes will be. Most of our other entities who offer, who do that kind of funding, make that kind of information available to us versus us either having to remember when it comes out or go hunt for it or whatever and I haven't experienced that kind of forthcomingness in recent years from the Crime Commission. I think there was a time perhaps when there was more money and maybe when gang prevention was a new thing and there was something that there might have been more outreach and collaboration but it seems to have be less and less. Perhaps it is related to the funding be less.

Williams: Between 2002 and 2005 that was when, and this is just coming from my perspective of being at the Crime Commission between 2002 and now. About a decade ago, we were able as a staff of the Governor's Crime Commission, maybe 10 – 15 staff members would actually go to six locations around the state and conduct what we call grant writing workshops. That's when we would announce our funding priorities. We would invite anybody and everybody who was interested in applying for Governor's Crime Commission funding to come to these workshops and we would share this information – funding priorities, how to apply for the grant, how to



navigate the system and so forth. Since that time, because of funding cuts, travel budgets having been cut, so we are not able to do that road show any more. However, our funding priorities are still listed on our website every September and we either do a grant writing webinar or we invite people to come to the Crime Commission around October. I do realize that, and this has also been a challenge of ours, that we do rely on technology more now to get the message out in those areas that you mentioned who may not have that ready access to technology and may not receive the notification of grant writing workshops or grant writing webinars or the notification that our funding priorities are now listed on our website. We do realize that and take that into consideration in our awareness and make sure that everybody is notified of our funds. As a point, our funding priorities are listed on our website every September.

Senator Bryant: I hear you and yet unless I remember that and remember to go check in September and when to go check I wouldn't know that. So my only request is, is there a way that we can sign up on your site to get some kind of outgoing communication from your agency? Do you all do outgoing communication to any existing groups or your existing, you know, and how do you get on that list and can we as legislators, be a part of that e-mail distribution or whatever updates you provide? Is there a way to do that from the website?

Williams: In going back and talking about our budget cuts and funding, we just had to RIF our entire research team. They were responsible for keeping our list serve and our website up to date so we no longer have that so we are now in the process of figuring out how to fill that gap to make sure the lines of communication aren't completely shut down.

Senator Bryant: Well if there is a way to be included, I would appreciate some information back to us about how to make that communication happen. Do we need to request to be on a list, can you put us on a list? What should we, do we need to do?

Williams: It is still a work in progress and we are still figuring it out ourselves.

Chairman Boles: Do you have an e-mail newsletter that goes out?

Williams: We have a website

Chairman Boles: And on the website does it have a notification notice.

Williams: We put the notification on the website.

Senator Goolsby: Perhaps that idea that I spoke of might work pretty well to answer the Senator's request. Maybe we should put on our schedule to have the Governor's Crime Control come over in October to sorta tell us what their priorities are so we might be able to help them with those. Or September. Could you tell us ma'am which would be the better time for you come over and speak with us, September or October when it deals with your priorities and what you are looking at for the coming year?

Williams: Actually toward the end of October would be better for us.

Senator Goolsby: So maybe October or December. If we could task one of our staff maybe Mr. Chair.

Chairman Boles: Well, they'll be back in March and they'll give us a definitive answer.

Representative Faircloth: Back in the early 70's, late 60's when all of this crime commission work first started, it was conceived as a public safety and criminal justice incubator of sorts. We hear of incubators now, business incubators, and that was what was in mind at that point. It was



not meant to set policy for long range operation of criminal justice agencies, it was sorta trial and error. Send up a good idea, try it out and see if it worked and if so, then it should get into the policy arena. I think the along the way we got separated from that. We haven't had the communication between the two bodies that we ought to have. I think what we are talking about here is a very healthy thing. I think that a lot of the ideas that are approved and tried by the commission will fall by the wayside. Some of them are very beneficial and we should have those in hand and fit them into the policy of our state and move forward. So I commend you on bringing that up Senator. I understand the views expressed here and I think we should hear about it.

Senator Goolsby: Thank you Representative and the reason after Justin made his comments were, I agree with. I don't think we should micromanage at all. I do like the idea of bringing those things forward. Just what I find shocking and disturbing is the fact I have had no involvement as a chair over the last three years with anything the Crime Commission has done, haven't known what they are doing. When I finally came to that realization about a month or two ago, I thought it's time to get the Crime Commission over and figure what's going on and then figure out how we liaison with them better, not in a micro but in a macro scale to figure what they are up to because I think that working together we can do a whole lot more than working, maybe on the same thing but spending the same amount of money. I don't like being played either. I don't like thinking that maybe there are departments or people out there that are getting funding from the Crime Commission that maybe we're giving funding to and all of a sudden we don't even know that the duplicative efforts are going on and we don't even know what is happening with other monies that are coming in. I'm hoping that we can put into legislation direct report so that we do know what they are doing and we can be involved more because I do care about what they are doing and I know how valuable they are.

Senator Newton: I've listened to discussion about Veteran's Court and Crime Commission and I appreciate all of the views that are being expressed – Senator Goolsby's and Representative Faircloth and Burr, Representative Stevens. I think this is a great example of why we need this communication and why I'm glad you're hear. I, like Senator Goolsby, didn't know a whole lot about the Crime Commission. This discussion of Veteran's Court, I think that's worthy of discussion and what the state's role in something like that might be. That's a serious policy decision. Some of us, myself, are not big fans of drug courts and family courts and I think Veterans Court could very well be a very different thing than that but it is worthy of discussion. That is an important policy decision for the state to make and what involvement we may have and we don't really need us to be going in one direction and maybe the Crime Commission going in a different direction. Or us having one view of things and the Crime Commission perhaps another view of things. We can waste a lot of money that way. But we don't need the Crime Commission funding things we've cut because we think they're a bad program. I think this is a healthy discussion and I'm anxious to find out a lot more about what the Crime Commission does too and especially this conversation about Veteran's Courts and how the pilot goes and so forth. Sometimes things that sound good and feel good but really don't do anything but spend money and I want to make sure if we do this that that's not what we do. That we do something that matters to our veterans and our court system.



Chairman Boles thanked Ms. Williams for her presentation and for taking the time to come and speak to the committee. He then asked members if they had anything to discuss or share with the committee.

Representative Stevens: Just so the staff knows that we don't frivolously ask them to do things, I want to talk a little bit more about the handout they did with the follow-up of how much we recruit from IDS versus expenditures. Statewide the average is 15% and there are large counties that I think could do a lot better who are only getting perhaps 5%. There seems to be a real diversity in how much the various counties are recouping so maybe we could look at that because if we raise their state average from 15% to 30% then we would have another \$20 million to work with. It's not in your packet, I don't think they put it in the packet, it's online and it's just one of those update things we have and I looked at it while I was sitting here and I'm very very interested in what we could do to improve that recoupment on IDS funds.

Representative McNeill: That is exactly what I was going to say. I would encourage every member of this committee to look at that report. I think staff is getting that together. I was very concerned as is Representative Stevens when I read that. Some of these counties that are only getting 5% back in reimbursement in IDS and I would like to see IDS come back before us and explain, or come up with some solution to that problem or if this committee is able to appoint subcommittees, then maybe we appoint a subcommittee to look into it. Some of the percentages that are being returned are very very concerning.

Senator Goolsby: I am going to be chairing next month's meeting and I would encourage committee members, and I appreciate Sarah and Allen bringing up this issue and I'll be happy to see that that is addressed, but if you have other things that you are interested for next month's meeting, I would very much appreciate hearing from you. One thing I am very interested in hearing and seeing the folks from probation and parole come over. I have been spending a lot of time in court lately watching all of the probation officers sit there throughout a large part of the day bringing back probationers. We talk about veterans court as Senator Newton was getting into and I'm just...Our probation officers have incredible caseloads. Between the clerks in the courthouse and the probation officers, those are the people that do the real work. I look at how much time they spend in court with the bad probations that don't do what they are supposed to do and if there is some way we can recognize their time a little easier and speed up the whole process of these violations. It is something I know that we've talked about in the past but maybe that is something for us to address, if not next month then in the near future. Getting them over here and looking at a way – do we have special probation courts once a week where they can come. There's just got to be a better way because I them sit in court all day long, get pushed to the side when attorneys come in. It doesn't make any sense to me when they should be out there monitoring these people and some of them have 60, 80, 90, a hundred people that they are looking over and supervising and we need attention. Cause all it takes is one of those people to not get addressed and the probation officer be tied up in court, and kill somebody and then it ends up being that whole blame the probation officer. It's always the low guy on the totem pole



so I have a lot of respect for those guys and deal with them all the time and see them sitting in court hour after hour so I would like to try to address that Mr. Chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Representative James. L. Boles, Jr.
Presiding

Kerry Guice, Committee Clerk

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